

As an XM radio subscriber I PAY a monthly fee for service similar to cable or satellite television. The thing that I truly enjoy about this service is it's wide array of programming, commercial-free, as opposed to my local radio stations owned by media behemoth Clear Channel. While using my privately paid for XM Radio, I actually get to hear liberal talk radio - something that practically doesn't exist in other media - my local weather and traffic, and the types of less-popular music that I like. I can receive this service anywhere in the US. I can also turn on the local channel for my city, and get news and weather whenever I want or need to listen to it. I don't need to wait for commercial breaks, or sit through mindless talk shows or music I don't like, just to hear the weather or news while I am driving.

It is really about choices, and I think the fact that I choose to pay for a radio subscription says something about the quality of my local free programming. I think it is ridiculous that the NAB wants to keep XM and most likely Sirius, the other satellite radio network, from broadcasting traffic and weather reports. I think it is time that media conglomerates lost a little of their deathgrip on the American media. It appears that the NAB is just worried because they finally have a quality competitor. Perhaps if they put out a better product with a wider area of service they wouldn't have to fear a little competition from a more modern source.

I pay for XM Radio! I pay for my satellite radio subscription, and the NAB should have no say over what programming I pay for! It would be like the cable companies asking the government to ban satellite TV networks from carrying the same channels they do. Competition is a healthy part of society and our economy. I respectfully request that you reject petition 04-160, and tell the NAB to mind their own business! Perhaps people wouldn't be turning to satellite radio for better programming if they did.

Thank you very much!